

## STATE of MINNESOTA

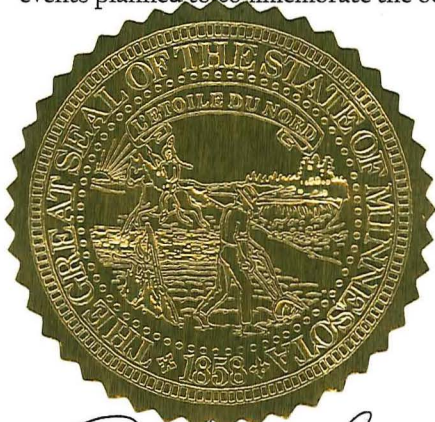
# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: American Indians rank third among all ethnicities in the United States in new HIV infections by population size; and
- WHEREAS: In Minnesota, there have been 232 HIV/AIDS cases reported among American Indian men, women, and children, since 1983, and as of 2012, an estimated 132 American Indians are reported to be currently living with HIV; and
- WHEREAS: National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a call to action to Native communities across the United States, to raise awareness that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is growing and that education and HIV testing are necessary to prevent infections; and
- WHEREAS: With the theme of, "Honor our Ancestors, Protect our People, Take the Test!," this day honors those who are living with HIV or have passed from HIV/AIDS-related complications; creates a greater awareness of the risk of HIV/AIDS to our American Indian communities; calls for resources for testing, early detection, and care; and decreases the occurrence of HIV/AIDS among American Indian people; and
- WHEREAS: Local, community-based organizations and sovereign nations are hosting community events, exhibits, testing opportunities, and training to recognize this day and its importance to our American Indian communities and all concerned citizens; and
- WHEREAS: It is fitting that we join with these national and local groups and sovereign nations to express our strong support for National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and its initiatives to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in American Indian communities, and to provide treatment and support services to those infected and affected by this disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Thursday, March 20, 2014, as:

## NATIVE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

in the state of Minnesota, and urge all community-based organizations, sovereign nations, religious communities, civic groups, elected officials, governmental agencies, and local residents to support this day, and participate in events planned to commemorate the occasion.



*Mark Ritchie*

SECRETARY OF STATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the state of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March.

*Mark Dayton*

GOVERNOR